

2

2

2

2

January 23, 1956

The Assistant to the President

Dear Mr. Fisher:

The ideas you set forth in your letter of the eleventh concerning the Central Intelligence Agency building proposal have been brought to the attention of the Director of the Office of Defense Mobilization. In his comments, he emphasizes that the Government's interest in dispersion as a means for reducing our vulnerability to attack is of long-standing; yet, it is not the intent of the policy to locate new facilities on the basis of security considerations only nor to make ourselves so secure as to be ineffective in our day-to-day operations. We apply the same policy to all new facilities important to national security -- governmental and industrial alike.

It is recognized that exceptions may be required in both cases. As applied to new facilities for the Executive Branch, the head of the agency concerned is responsible for determining whether the nature of the activity for which a new facility is to be constructed will permit the use of a dispersed location. He must balance the requirements for efficient peace-time operations against the need for post-attack operational capability and other means for assuring it. It is believed that the head of the agency is in the best position to make such determination.

I am informed that these statements, in substance, summarize the guidance given by the Office of Defense Mobilization to agencies having construction authority, and I trust that they will correct any contrary impressions that may exist with respect to intra-governmental positions on the location of the Central Intelligence Agency building.

The interest you have taken in this matter is indeed appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mr. Roger Fisher
701 Union Trust Building
Washington 5, D. C.

2

2

2

2